

Chickamauga, Battle of

19-20 Sep 1863

{chik-uh-maw'-guh}

Chickamauga was a major battle of the American CIVIL WAR fought on Sept. 19-20, 1863. The Confederate army of 66,000 men under Gen. Braxton BRAGG attacked a 58,000-strong Union army under Gen. William S. ROSECRANS along Chickamauga Creek in northwestern Georgia. On the second day of battle the Confederates drove much of the Union army from the field in disorder. Only the stubborn stand of the Union left flank under Gen. George H. THOMAS saved Rosecrans's army from destruction. Bragg failed, however, to follow up his victory aggressively. This lessened its impact on the war and contributed to the Confederate defeat at Chattanooga in November (see CHATTANOOGA, BATTLES OF).

Bibliography: Abbazia, P., Chickamauga Campaign (1988); Cozzens, Peter, This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga (1992); Mitchell, Joseph B., Decisive Battles of the Civil War (1978); Tucker, Glenn, Chickamauga: Bloody Battle in the West (1961; repr. 1975).

Shiloh, Battle of

6-7 Apr 1862

The Battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing (Apr. 6-7, 1862), was a fierce clash of the U.S. CIVIL WAR in which Gen. Ulysses S. GRANT's 42,000-man Union army defeated the 40,000-man Confederate force led by Gen. Albert S. JOHNSTON. Grant, victorious at Fort Donelson, pushed along the Tennessee River to join Gen. Don Carlos BUELL's force of more than 20,000 and threaten the Confederate stronghold at Corinth, Miss. Johnston surprised Grant's troops, encamped near Shiloh Church in Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. Gen. William T. SHERMAN's forward camp was overrun, as were several other Union positions.

Johnston was killed during the savage fighting of the afternoon, and Gen. P. G. T. BEAUREGARD took command as a Confederate drive pushed Federals to the Tennessee River. Buell's arrival during the night allowed the Union to take the offensive and gain the final victory.

Shiloh was one of the most brutal battles of the war: Union casualties were more than 13,000; Confederate, more than 10,000. Strategic stalemate at Shiloh stabilized the Confederacy's western position.

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Bibliography: Catton, Bruce, Grant Moves South (1960; repr. 1990); Connelly, Thomas L., Army of the Heartland (1971); Frank, J., and Reaves, G., Seeing the Elephant (1989); Nofi, A., The Bloody Struggle (1989).